

Hamilton Field, Entrance Bridges
Main Entrance Road east of Nave Drive
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-L

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
1L-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**HAMILTON FIELD
Entrance Bridges**

HABS
CAL
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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Entrance Bridges (Main Entrance Road)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

The double entrance bridges flank the location of the original security gate at Hamilton, and were an important feature of the landscaped entrance configuration at the base throughout the period of significance. They are a contributing element to the overall feeling apparent in the historic district.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

Two concrete bridges, over the railroad tracks, provide access to the base now, as they did in the 1930s. They are of concrete girder construction, common in California after the 1910s, and the most common type of bridge in the state. They have formed-in-place concrete railings composed of ten foot 5-inch-long by 42-inch-high sections with a rectangular recessed arch on each side. A 12-inch-wide by 46-inch-high post separates each section. Each end of the bridge has a pair of red cast concrete lamp posts topped with metal lamps. Similar light standards are located throughout the base.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Completed in 1932, the bridges were two of the first facilities constructed, along with the road system, sewers, and underground work. They were built by Barrett and Hilp of San Francisco. This firm constructed the two bridges and the entrance road for around \$23,244.00. They are landmark features on base.

**HAMILTON FIELD
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Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 60, exposures 11-12; roll 61, exposures 1-2; roll 62, exposures 1-2; roll 65, exposures 7-8 (photographed in May and June 1993).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California